Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, March 13th, 1883.

The Board of Aldermen met last night in the Council Chamber, there being present His Worship Mayor Meredith, Aldermen Birrell, O'Meara, Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Stringer, Moore, Boyd and Becher.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read the following

COMMUNICATIONS.

From Mr. James Taylor, resigning his position as City Tax Collector. No. 1.

From French & Co., asking that they be not compelled to remove a sign in front of their photograph gallery. No. 2.

From Mr. C. N. Nelles, claiming $250 damages on account of an accident caused by a defective fire alarm wire. No. 2.

From J. A. Nelles, Secretary of the London Board of Trade, as follows:—I am directed by the London Board of Trade to draw your attention to a violation by the Great Western Railway Company of their lease of the London and Port Stanley Railway. By the 17th clause of the lease the freights charged from competing points easterly or westerly of London to this city are to be the same as to St. Thomas, whereas considerably higher rates are charged in some instances, notably in the carrying of coal, particulars of which will be given by the deputation from this Board (Messrs. John McClary, Thomas McCormick, A. D. Cameron and W. Y. Brunton) in case you be pleased to hear them on the subject.

Trusting you will take such action in the matter as will duly protect the rights of the citizens,

I have the honor to be, etc.

Referred to No. 1 Committee.

From Mr. I. Danks, Secretary of the Board of Water Commissioners, in reference to the supply of water to the Ontario Car Works. No. 1.

From the Sisters of St. Joseph's Asylum, enclosing an account for $262.50, for the keep of several old women at that institution. No. 3.

From the City Solicitor, in reference to the passing of a by-law governing the sale of goods on the Market Square by auctioneers. No. 3.

From a number of city sporting men, asking to be allowed to shoot clay pigeons on Harris' flats. No. 3.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

The following communication from the Solicitors of the London Junction Railway, Messrs. Fraser & Fraser, was read:—The Board of the London Junction Railway Company have received notice that the legislation applied for to the Dominion Parliament by the Credit Valley Railway Company, asking powers to construct, operate and work the London Junction Railway and the Ontario & Quebec Railway Companies, is being opposed by the Northern and Grand Trunk Railway Companies. Should this opposition prove successful the Board fear it will seriously affect the city of London, as it would prevent the city and the country west and south of the city from receiving the benefits of a competing line of railway to the seaboard.

The Board respectfully request the co-operation of the City Council in assisting the Credit Valley and London Junction Railways to obtain the legislation applied for.

As the Bill will come before the Railway Committee early this week, there is no time to be lost if the city desires to take action.

Ald. Birrell moved, seconded by Ald. Boyd, that it is in the opinion of this Council of vital importance to the city of London to obtain a competing line of railway to the seaboard;

And, whereas, the legislation applied for to the Dominion Parliament at its present session by the Credit Valley Railway Company, if granted, will give such competing line to the city of London and to a large portion of the county west and south of the city;

And, whereas, it has been made to appear to this Council that such legislation is being opposed by the Northern and Grand Trunk Railway Companies, and that such opposition, if successful, will be prejudicial to the interests of this city and the country west and south of the city;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Hon. John Carling and Duncan Macmillan, Esq., M. P., and James Armstrong, Esq., M. P., be and they are hereby respectfully requested to use their utmost endeavors to procure the Dominion Parliament, at its present session, to grant the legislation applied for by the Credit Valley Railway Co. respecting the said competing line to the seaboard;

And that copies of the above resolution be forwarded by His Worship the Mayor to the Hon. John Carling, Duncan Macmillan, Esq., M. P., and James Armstrong, Esq., M. P.

The resolution was carried without opposition.

NUMBER THREE.

In the absence of Ald. Hunt, Ald. Moore reported from No. 3 as follows:—(1) That the salaries of the call-men on the Fire Brigade be $175 per annum, and that hereafter should any vacancy occur the new men be paid $125 per annum; your committee would also suggest the advisability of increasing the foreman's salary $50 and the assistant foreman's $20 per annum; (2) that the account of Essex, Dunn & Co., 80 cents, be paid; (3) your committee would recommend that the Council take over the male portion of the aged inmates of the Protestant Orphans' Home (in all about ten persons) and provide for them in the House of Refuge, Strathroy, until other arrangements are made for their maintenance; (4) that the City Engineer be instructed to look for suitable land in the city or suburbs for the erection of a Poor House, and to submit plans to this Council at its next meeting for the necessary buildings, with an estimate of the cost; (5) that Alex. Kelly (colored) receive $2 per week till the first of June next, and that Mrs. McInnes receive $1 per week until further notice.

The report was taken up clause by clause.

Ald Moore stated that the increase would necessitate an additional outlay of $500 per annum.

Ald. Boyd moved in amendment to the report that the eight old members of the brigade receive $200 per annum, four $175, and that Oliver Richardson receive $480 per annum.

Seconded by Ald. O'Meara.

Carried.

Clause two passed.

On the adoption of the third clause being moved,

Moved by Ald. Becher, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the clause be amended by striking out the word "ten" and inserting "five" therein instead, said five to be selected by the authorities of the Protestant Orphans' Home. Lost.

Ald. Browne moved in amendment to the amendment, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the clause of the report be referred back to the Committee, and that the Committee be instructed to wait on the managers of the Home with a view of having an addition to the present Home erected on some part of the present grounds to remove the old men into, and report back if such an arrangement can be made at the next meeting of this Council.

A vote was taken, and the amendment to the amendment was declared lost, as was also Ald. Becher's amendment, on which the yeas and nays were called as follows:—

Yeas—Ald. Becher and Skinner.

Nays—Ald. Birrell, O'Meara, Cowan, Stringer, Moore, Boyd and Browne.

The clause in the report was then adopted, as were also the remaining clauses.

BY-LAW PASSED.

A by-law was introduced and passed empowering the City Council to enter into an agreement with the County of Middlesex for the admission of paupers into the Poor House at Strathroy on the same terms given to the County of Lambton.

NUMBER TWO.

Ald. Browne (chairman) reported from No. 2 Committee as follows:—(1) That the pay sheet for the week ending March 8, 1883 ($154.27) be passed; (2) your committee beg to report progress on the claim of Mr. John Ashworth for damages done to vegetables in his cellar by water flowing into it from the street; (3) that the prayer of the petition of the Western Fair Board be granted, subject to the approbation of the chairman; (4) report progress in claim of Mr. John Mercer for damages; (5) that the services of Henry Faunt be continued as caretaker of Queen's Park at the salary of last year.

The report was taken up clause by clause, and passed without discussion.

NUMBER ONE.

In the absence of Ald. C. S. Hyman (chairman) Ald. Becher reported from this Committee as follows:—(1) That accounts amounting to $830.91 be paid; (2) That two copies of C. B. Richardson's map of the city of London and suburbs be purchased; (3) That John Cant's letter be acknowledged, but no further action be taken; (4) That the petition of Ellen Finnegan for remission of half her taxes be filed; (5) Your Committee beg to report progress in the petition of Ann Ross for remission of taxes for the year 1878; (6) Your Committee beg to recommend that no action be taken in reference to the resignation of James Taylor, collector, until such time as the northern roll for 1882 is checked, and the amount collected by Mr. Taylor during the time the said roll was in his possession, is ascertained, and also Mr. Taylor's account with the city duly made out and approved.

The report was adopted.

Adjourned for three weeks.